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advanced in the series is in reality the initial number of a new work which is intended to describe the wild plants of all groups not only of the United States but of the remainder of North America, including the West Indies. The editorial management has been undertaken by Doctors Britton and Underwood, who have associated with themselves an advisory committee of representative American botanists, and who depend upon the collaboration of a large number of specialists. Thirty volumes of four or five fascicles each are in contemplation, and a special fund set aside for this purpose by the New York Botanical Garden provides for the publication of the several parts as they are prepared.

The present fascicle, which is attractively printed and provided with analytical keys for all of the groups treated, is devoted to the first four (Podostemonaceæ, Crassulaceæ, Penthoraceæ, and Parnassiaceæ) of the twenty-four families recognized as representing the order Rosales; the first being handled by Nash, the second by Britton and Rose, and the third and fourth by Rydberg, the ordinal key and description being by Small.

So large an undertaking is subject to many dangers and is certain to suffer many mishaps; and, considering the imperfect herbarium data and the impossibility of extensive field research if the work is to be pushed forward with any speed, it may be said that each fascicle is likely to become antiquated in a very short time after its publication, so far, at least, as the tropical regions are concerned,—the more rapidly, indeed, in proportion to its own critical excellence. There appears to be no other way, however, of making possible the ultimately complete flora of this enormous and botanically rich territory that every botanist feels the need of, and the editors should count on the active support of all who can help them forward with their plans.

W. T.

**Ames's Studies in the Family Orchidaceæ.**<sup>1</sup>—A new irregular-interval publication, somewhat comparable with *Hooker's Icones Plantarum*, the *Icones Selectæ Horti Thenensis*, etc., has been launched under the auspices of a publisher's house which does only good and attractive work. Its purpose is to present the results of investigation on one of the largest and best known collections of

<sup>1</sup> Ames, Oakes. *Orchidaceæ. Illustrations and Studies of the Family Orchidaceæ, issuing from the Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Massachusetts.* Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1905. 8vo, fasc. 1, vi + 156 pp., 16 pls.

orchids cultivated in the United States, its scope being limited to this family of plants. The first fascicle, issued on April 8, contains illustrations, critical notes, and technical descriptions covering a wide range of genera in the family and a number of countries. The most interesting feature for American botanists is a critical paper called "Contributions toward a Monograph of the American Species of *Spiranthes*," to which 33 pages are devoted.

W. T.

**Notes.**—The fourth of Rose's "Studies of Mexican and Central American Plants" (*Contributions from the U. S. National Herbarium*, vol. 8, part 4), like its predecessors is an important addition to the published information about the plants of the high tableland. The author states that none of the many new species it contains have been described until all their known Mexican relatives had been studied, and in most cases a synopsis of the genus prepared,—a procedure that speaks well for the conclusions reached.

A paper on plants eaten by the ancient Mexicans, by Urbina, has been published from the Museo Nacional of Mexico.

Nuttall's *Journal of Travels into the Arkansas Territory during the Year 1819, with Occasional Observations on the Manners of the Aborigines*, published at Philadelphia in 1821, is reprinted as vol. 13 of the *Early Western Travels* being edited by Dr. Thwaites of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Under the title "Plant Migration Studies," Professor Bessey has distributed from *University Studies*, vol. 5, no. 1 (University of Nebraska) separately an analysis of the distribution of Nebraska trees and the factors which have influenced it,—with 67 thumb-nail maps of the State, referring to as many trees.

The forest conditions of northern New Hampshire are considered by Chittenden in *Bulletin no. 55* of the Bureau of Forestry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A paper entitled "Additions to the Flora of Subtropical Florida," by Small, has recently been issued in the *Bulletin of the New York Botanical Garden*.

A contribution to the flora of the Bahama Islands, by Britton, is separately printed from vol. 3, no. 11, of the *Bulletin of the New York Botanical Garden*.